

Reply to Office Action dated October 6, 2006

REMARKS

Claims 1-4, 8-11, 14-15, 17-18, 20-22, and 24-26 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 1 and 22 are amended, and claims 16, 19, and 23 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. No new matter is added. Support for the claims can be found throughout the specification, including the original claims, and the drawings. Reconsideration in view of the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejected claims 1, 3, 4, 8, 10, 11, and 14-26 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Sawamura et al., (hereinafter "Sawamura"), U.S. Patent Publication 2002/0122156, in view of Kuiseko et al., (hereinafter "Kuiseko"), U.S. Patent Publication No. 2001/0021005. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claims 1 and 22 have been amended to recite that the axis of incidence light and the axis of light emitted by the channel-changing prism are substantially parallel. Neither Sawamura nor Kuiseko, taken alone or in combination, disclose or suggest such features, or the respective claimed combinations of claims 1 and 22.

That is, the Examiner has previously acknowledged that Sawamura does not disclose or suggest these features. Further, the Examiner states that "[c]learly the channel-changing prism of Kuiseko emits light such that the axis of light is substantially parallel." However, the Examiner refers to elements 34 and 39 as corresponding to the claimed channel-changing prism. With respect to element 34 disclosed by Kuiseko as an image rotation compensating mechanism, element 34 does not rotate a channel-changing prism configured to receive light irradiated from the illumination mixer and to provide a predetermined distance between an axis of incidence

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light and an axis of light emitted by the channel-changing prism by rotating, wherein the axis of incidence light and the axis of light emitted by the channel-changing prism are substantially parallel. Rather, element 34 prevents a cross-section image from being in an inverted relationship with a reference image when the rotating member 39 is in the 180° angular position. See paragraph 62 of Kuiseko. Further, element 39 and motor 74 shown in FIGS. 2 and 3 rotate not a channel-changing prism, but a projection mirror 6, projection lens 513, a projection mirror 37, and a screen 38 about axis Z. See paragraph 68 of Kuiseko.

Accordingly, the rejection of independent claims 1 and 22 over Sawamura and Kuiseko should be withdrawn. Dependent claims 3-4, 8, 10-11, 14-21, and 23-26 are allowable over Sawamura and Kuiseko at least for the reasons discussed above with respect to independent claims 1 and 22, from which they respectively depend, as well as for their added features.

The Office Action rejected claims 2 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Sawamura in view of Kuiseko, and further in view of Mihalakis, U.S. Patent No. 6,375,330. The rejections are respectfully traversed.

Dependent claims 2 and 9 are allowable over Sawamura and Kuiseko at least for the reasons discussed above with respect to independent claim 1, from which they respectively depend, as well as for their added features. Mihalakis fails to overcome the deficiencies of Sawamura and Kuiseko, as it is merely cited as allegedly teaching use of a reflective mirror for changing the channel of light irradiated from the lamp as it enters into the color divider. Accordingly, the rejection of claims 2 and 9 over Sawamura, Kuiseko, and Mihalakis should be withdrawn.

Serial No. 10/776,198

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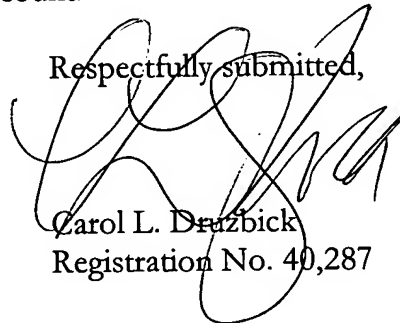
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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited. If the Examiner believes that any additional changes would place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,



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